



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL
Agenda Highlights for November 24, 2008

For More Information:
John Ivanic, Communications Director
(614) 645-6798

COUNCIL PROVIDING POLICE HI-TECH CRIME-FIGHTING TOOLS: The Columbus Division of Police has been awarded a grant that will enable officers to share voice and video information within minutes of recording the data. *Ordinance 1721-2008*, sponsored by Public Safety Committee Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#), will allow for the appropriation of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COP) grant. Officers will be able to use the cutting-edge technology to record and access data via a wireless system located in the police substations and Central Police Headquarters. This capability will enhance access to data for investigations, prosecutions, public records requests, information sharing and crime prevention. The grant expenditures will include the purchase of digital video cruiser cameras, computer servers, hard drives, wireless controllers, software licenses, installation, field services and maintenance agreements.

****Councilmember Ginther will welcome Kevin Miles, Executive Director of Central Ohio Crime Stoppers, and Jenni Ernst, co-owner of CoreTactix, Inc., to Council Chambers to discuss free self-defense courses being offered to over 600 women in a response to a series of violent assaults that authorities have attributed to a serial rapist.**

TYSON SUPPORTING SENIORS IN NEED: Recreation and Parks Committee Chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#) is sponsoring legislation that will provide critical services to seniors. *Ordinance 1643-2008* authorizes the expenditure of \$6,333,215 in grant monies for 32 community services contracts for the provision of meals, adult day care, homemaker, personal care, transportation, home repair and legal services for the period January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009. The service providers were selected from proposals submitted to the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging in 2008. The contracts represent the 1st year of a 1-year proposal period. Approximately 40,000 individuals are expected to be served.

HAYDEN RUN BLVD. PARKING GARAGES: Finance Committee Chair [Kevin L. Boyce](#) is sponsoring *Ordinance 1879-2008* which authorizes the issuance and sale of Notes for the Parking Garages and Hayden Run Boulevard Phase I projects. This legislation will allow the City to issue and sell up to \$24,225,000 of notes in anticipation of the issuance of bonds. The issuance will pay the cost of the project as well as the cost of advertising, printing and legal services.

TAVARES WORKING TO ALLAY HOUSING CRISIS: The City has been awarded \$22,845,495 in Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds to help ease the current housing mortgage crisis. Health, Housing & Human Services Committee Chair [Charleta B. Tavares](#) is sponsoring *Ordinance 1860-2008*, which will help stabilize Columbus' housing market through the purchase of foreclosed or abandoned properties, as well as the rehabilitation, redevelopment or demolition of these properties, in order to stabilize neighborhoods and stem the decline of house values of neighboring homes. The City's NSP application describes the areas of greatest need as well as the various proposed programs and their respective budgets. HUD requires that grantees use at least 25% of the funds for individuals or families whose incomes do not exceed 50% of the area

median income. In addition, all activities funded by NSP must benefit low and moderate income individuals whose incomes do not exceed 120% of area median income.

NEW ENTERPRISE ZONE AGREEMENT: Enterprise Zone Agreements (EZA) provide tax incentives for businesses seeking to expand and help revitalize a neighborhood. Development Committee Chair [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#) is sponsoring *Ordinance 1848-2008* which will authorize the City to enter into an EZA with High Street LLC. As part of the agreement, High Street LLC will renovate the interior and exterior of the vacant building at 45 North High Street previously occupied by Arby's located in the "Mile on High District". The project will include an investment of \$1.25 million in property improvements and the creation of seven new full-time permanent positions.

NORTHLAND MALL REDEVELOPMENT CONTINUES: Rebirth of the former Northland Mall has been a commitment of the City since the mall closed its doors in 2002. Tonight, Judiciary and Court Administration Committee Chair [Hearcel F. Craig](#) is sponsoring *Ordinance 1805-2008* to grant a utility easement through the former Northland Mall site. Upon completion, the City of Columbus will have invested more than \$38 million on redevelopment of the site and infrastructure improvements along Morse Road. The City recently announced the commencement of Phase 2 of the Morse Road Project which stretches 1.5 miles from Karl Road to Cleveland Avenue.

MENTEL RECOGNIZES LOCAL LEADER ELECTED TO INTERNATIONAL BOARD: Council President [Michael C. Mentel](#) will present *Resolution 0214X-2008* to St. Stephen's President and CEO Michelle M. Mills who was recently tapped to serve on the board of the International Federation of Settlements in Helsinki, Finland. Accepting the three-year term, Mills will join the organization in its mission to build an inclusive global community by empowering, inspiring and connecting individuals who work locally for social justice. With a primary focus on membership, Mills will contribute to the board by organizing international conferences, training and exchanges. Mills has made her mark on the history books of St. Stephen's as the organizations youngest and first African-American President and CEO.

MEETINGS OF NOTE:

- ✓ The Health, Housing, and Human Services Budget Hearing scheduled for Wednesday, December 3, 2008 has been *postponed* until Thursday, December 18, 2008. For more information, please call 614-645-8580 or email jcragland@columbus.gov.
- ✓ Over the next several weeks, The Columbus City Council will hold a number of public hearings related to the proposed 2009 City of Columbus General Fund Budget. For a complete list of budget hearings visit, [City Council's Meeting Calendar Web page](#). In addition, a budget [comment form](#) is available on Council's Web site for those who wish to solicit feedback. To receive press releases and publications from Council, [sign-up](#) for Council's e-mail distribution list.